

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2025

St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green

Welcome All | Deepen Faith | Inspire Action

Welcome to St John's!

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope Psalm 130:5

In many ways, February seems like an 'in between' month. The celebration of Christ's birth, which began at Christmas and continued in the revelation of the Saviour during Epiphany, has now passed and we await the season of Lent.

This month we are preparing to start a monthly Bubble Church for young families, the PCC will be working on areas to strengthen our mission as a church and we are waiting for news from the Diocese concerning moving the font and our application to display memorial plaques from the old chairs.

In times of waiting, watching and preparing, God is with us and invites us to put our trust in him while we do so.

Please keep St John's in your prayers. Every blessing, Sue

Services at St John's this month

Sunday 2 February: Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: All Age Service
Some children will receive their first Holy Communion at this service.

Friday 7 February:

12.30pm: Thanksgiving Service for Jenifer Ruxton -
more details over the page

Sunday 9 February: 4th Sunday before Lent

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist
1pm: Baptism of Tillie Peachey-Hicks

Sunday 16 February: 3rd Sunday before Lent

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist

Sunday 23 February: 2nd Sunday before Lent

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 26 February

Eucharist in the Lady Chapel at 12 noon followed by a simple lunch of delicious homemade soup and bread in St John's Room



Usually the 4th Wednesday of each month



COFFEE and a CHAT

St John's Room, 10.30am - 12 noon
Thursdays 6 and 20 February
Do come and join us! If you need a lift, please ring Barbara: 715636.



The March Newsletter will be available on Sunday 23 February.

Please send anything to be included by Sunday 16 February to Janet Harman at office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk, or phone 715301 (and leave a message if I'm out!) Thank you.

St John's Notices

[facebook.com/stjohnshurstgreen](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnshurstgreen)

JENIFER RUXTON: We were sad to report the death of Jenifer Ruxton on Sunday 29 December in the care of David Gresham House where she had lived for the last few years. We have so much to be thankful for from Jenifer's life. Her most obvious legacy is the green altar frontal that she designed and made, inspired by the pattern thrown on the church wall by the sun shining through the windows. She was a most accomplished needlewoman. In so many ways Jenifer's gentle and quiet presence contributed to strengthening our church life. For years, Jenifer was the one and only server at the 8 o'clock service. Sunday by Sunday she was there, ensuring that the service went without a hitch. She was a founder member of, and our representative on, the Oxted One World Group. Jenifer was so kind, so humble, and so very wise, and like a beacon of 'niceness' shining in our often dark world. We shall miss her. We send our condolences to her children, Charles, Julia, Robert, Hugh and Tom, and their families. There will be a Thanksgiving service for her life at St John's on Friday 7 February at 12.30pm, preceded by a private burial in Oxted Burial Ground. *Mary*

CRISTMAS GREETINGS: For those who may still remember them, I have received Christmas greetings from former parishioners: Annette Capps, Ruth Vowles and Beryl Perry, and the following news from others: Sue and John Olver in Suffolk - John has moved into a Care Home this year, but Sue continues in their cottage and still does as much as possible for her local church and community. Drs Kath and Brian McCarthy, in Somerset, are well and as active as possible. Hilary Gerard-Pearce, our former churchwarden, in Kettering, was put on end of life care 2½ years ago, but is still alive; however her daughter, Sarah says that she has severe dementia. *Mary*

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Beer and Chilli Evening at St John's Church on Friday 10 October. More details to follow...

FROGS AND TOADS ON THE MOVE: It's the time of year when the thoughts of a young toad, or frog, turn to love. But the quest for love is fraught with danger, because of the traffic on our roads. Frogs and toads instinctively head back each year to the pond where they were bred, making their way from whichever garden they call home. They will make their move when the weather conditions are favourable, usually from early February onwards. As they are cold-blooded, they won't venture out if the temperature (taking into account any windchill) is less than about 5 °C. A misty and murky, mild evening is ideal for them.

We have Beware of the Toad signs installed at three different points which are all about 100 metres from the T-junction between Church Way and Oast Road, and they will be uncovered from the beginning of February. These are the stretches of road where you are likely to come across the amphibians as they slowly make their way, up until about the beginning of April. Please, if you can, slow down as you drive there if it's between dusk and about 10pm during the migrating season. A Toad Patrol, of all ages, helps the frogs and toads on their journey, and if you do drive slowly this will be safer for us too. Volunteers for the Toad Patrol are always most welcome. You just need a torch, a clean bucket and some (unpowdered) plastic or rubber gloves. Please contact me if you're interested. Many thanks, Adrian 07974 171977.

QUIZ NIGHT: Saturday 22 February in St John's Church at 6.30pm, £15 per head (payable on the night), includes a jacket potato meal. Bring your own drinks. Cash raffle on the night. Please contact Sue Fox 07968 128105 or foxsue580@gmail.com to book your team (max 8 people) or to be added to a team.

BUBBLE CHURCH, COMING TO ST JOHN'S VERY SOON! For children aged 7 and under. Six people are attending a training session on 7 February, more info at www.bubblechurch.org

RETIRING COLLECTIONS at the Remembrance and Christmas services raised the following amounts for charity:
Remembrance Sunday service: The Royal British Legion £103
The all age Christingle service: The Children's Society £170
Nine Lessons and Carols: The Passage (a homeless charity) £420
Christmas Eve Crib services: Welcare (for families in need) £527
Thank you so much for your generosity.

COFFEE TASTING RESULT: On 19 January after the 9.45am service, there was a chance to taste several different coffees before the next order is placed. The winning one was the organic, Fairtrade, Arabica 100% single origin, described as 'smooth and well-balanced with hints of lemon fruit acidity and a spicy chocolate aftertaste'. With many thanks to Pam Putman and Liz Sone, who organised the session with great calm and professionalism. If you don't usually stay for coffee, do make an exception and try it!

NEW YOUTH GROUP FORMAT: Since Mira, the Oxted Team youth worker's contract ended last summer, a new time and place has been trialled with some of her old group. It's been going well and the invitation is extended to all young people in the Oxted Team Ministry churches, in school year 7 and above. There's a youth table at Café Church, which meets at St Mary's The_Space on Sundays, 4.30pm in term time, with games afterwards until 6.15pm. The youth team are Mira Cook and Claire Knight from St Mary's and Rob O'Neill and Revd Sue from St John's.

ASH WEDNESDAY, 5 MARCH: There will be a service of Holy Communion at 12 noon in the Lady Chapel on Ash Wednesday and on Wednesdays throughout Lent (ending on 16 April). It is hoped that the services will be followed by a simple lunch, but this is to be confirmed.

LENT GROUPS: Churches Together in Oxted & District (CTOD) have chosen the York course *The Sacraments: Responding to God's Loving Invitation*, by Jane Williams and will pay for the materials. Please speak to Janet Harman if you would like to join a group meeting at 10am on Mondays, starting on 3 March, at The_Space, Oxted Community Hall.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, FRIDAY 7 MARCH: There are services at 10am at St John's and 7.30pm at St Mary's Oxted. This global ecumenical movement is led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. This year's service comes from the women of the Cook Islands. The theme is 'I Made You Wonderful,' based on Psalm 139:1-18.

Other Notices

CONCERT: On Saturday 1 March, 6.30pm at St Mary's Church, Oxted, the London Welsh Male Voice Choir will give a Charity Concert in support of Oxted Royal British Legion's Veterans Hub and St Mary's Church Heritage Trust, with special guests from St Mary's Primary School. Tickets £15 on Eventbrite or phone Rob Cogan 07423 573899. See poster in the porch.

www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

Revd Sue Bosley 01883 712674 / 07553 305087

st John's
HURST GREEN